

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Yasushi KOBUCHI et al.

Int'l Application No.: PCT/JP2004/016521

Application No.: NEW

Filed: May 11, 2006

For: SEPARATOR

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(SUBMISSION CONCURRENT WITH THE
FILING OF A NEW PATENT APPLICATION)**

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Mail Stop PCT

May 11, 2006

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

This application is a National Phase of a PCT application. Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should be forwarded from the International Search Authority. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

Because the present application is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

a. DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Some of the attached patents, publications, or other information in the English language do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

Many of the documents have been discussed in the PCT Search Report, the PCT Preliminary Examination Report, and/or throughout the specification. The PCT Search Report and PCT Preliminary Examination Report, along with a German translation aid translating key terms into English, indicate the degree of relevance found by the PCT Office, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3).

c. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3).

d. OTHER

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants include a German translation aid for translating terminology in the PCT Search Report and Examination Report to thereby satisfy Applicant's requirement for an English language translation thereof.

e. EQUIVALENCY DOCUMENTS

New PCT National Phase Application
Docket No. 2691-000044/US

FEES

APPLICABILITY 11 MAY 2006

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a new patent application; therefore, no fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

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Enclosures:

- Form PTO-1449(s)
- Documents
- International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210 and PCT/ISA/220)
- International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/416 and PCT/IPEA/409)
- Fee
- Other: German Translation Aid

Form PTO-1449		ATTY DOCKET NO. 2691-000044/US	APPLICATION NO. 10/1579067			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANTS Yasushi KOBUCHI et al.	CONF. NO. Unknown			
		FILING DATE May 11, 2006	GROUP Unknown			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES NO
	JP 10-92447 A	4/10/1998	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 63-289770 A	11/28/1988	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 2000-133290 A	5/12/2000	JAPAN			Abst.
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	JP 2001-357859 A	12/26/2001	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 2001-351642 A	12/21/2001	JAPAN			Abst.
	DE 19961496 A1	7/6/2000	GERMANY			Abst.
	JP 2-168563 A	6/28/1990	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 2003-151572 A	5/23/2003	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 2000-138067 A	5/16/2000	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 2001-307747 A	11/2/2001	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 61-120977	2/24/1988	JAPAN			Abst.
	JP 63-28251	2/24/1988	JAPAN			Abst.
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.)						
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						